

## **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING REFUSE WITH STEAM**

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

A method of injecting steam into a landfill is provided. The steam enhances methane gas production in the landfill during the anaerobic phase, accelerates decomposition/biodegradation of the organic component of the trash prism during both the aerobic and anaerobic phases, and increases the rate of settlement of the landfill. A method of introducing a gaseous anaerobic fertilizer into the landfill is also provided. The fertilizer accelerates the decomposition/biodegradation of the organic component of the trash prism. A method of reducing the volume of a plastic component of the trash prism is provided, wherein the temperature and pressure of injected steam are raised to a level sufficient to melt plastic. Methods and apparatus for reducing the volume of a quantity of refuse prior to placing the refuse in a landfill are provided. The refuse is heated with steam and also compacted. The heat melts plastic in the refuse, and the compaction increases the quantity of refuse that can be placed into a given landfill.

### **PATENT**

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